



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights

- The U.S. Air Force's construction efforts at Highwood Baldy made it to YouTube! To view video of concrete being poured at the site, click on this link:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-HYTROzVqA>  
(Please Note: State of Montana agencies are blocked from accessing this site. You may need to visit it from your home computer)
- Functional testing of the trunking system along Northern Tier sites took place at Mt Royal, Hill County Sheriff's Office, Divide, Antoine, and Saco last week and at the Kalispell Water Tank, Blacktail and Jette sites this week.

## Additional Member on IM Audit Committee

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Last week, the HAM announced that five names have been submitted for appointment to the IM Audit Standing Committee. An additional name was inadvertently left out.

Kevin Myhre, Lewistown's City Manager, will also be appointed to the committee. The editor apologizes for the oversight.

## Eastern Tier Consortium Meeting Dynamic

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC) held an informative meeting on Wed., Aug. 26 in Glendive. Discussion took place about the outreach meetings coming up in eastern Montana. Denny Palmer, ETIC Consortium Chair, encouraged everyone to attend if possible. Feedback from previous outreach sessions has been positive and helpful.

Denny also gave an update on the last IM Project Directors meeting. He stressed the need to complete Standard Operating Procedures. Denny created a spreadsheet to illustrate where new repeaters will be placed and emphasized the need to share frequencies for interop repeaters. He also reiterated the need for inventory information.

Butch Renders, Richland County, provided the technical report and gave an update on site progress. A site in Garfield County was discussed that would provide coverage for both Garfield and Petroleum counties. Another site in southeast Custer County to replace a site on the five-year plan was discussed. It would provide coverage in three counties.

Members and guests also discussed sustainability funding issues, including the cost of the IM system to counties, the value of the system, the need to upgrade dispatch centers as the system builds out, various means for raising money to fund the system, and control of the system.

The next meeting will be on Wed., Sept. 23 at the Dawson County Courthouse Community Room., 207 W. Bell, in Glendive.

## IM Finance Committee Meeting Productive

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Members of the Interoperability Montana Finance Committee (IMFC) held a productive meeting in Helena on Tues., Sept. 8. After an examination of progress on task items, members reviewed the Bank Account Register report and listened to a report on funding sources. Amy Mays, DES, provided an explanation of the reverted funds justification request and process.

Bill Fleiner reviewed the names of Audit Committee members. Chief Michaels will make these appointments, since it is a standing committee. Bill said a policy is under development to describe the parameters and function and this committee as well as its relationship to the IM Finance Committee. The main duty of the committee is to conduct a financial audit.

Members discussed IM-issued award letters as well as purchase orders. The committee passed motions to move forward on Motorola Change Order (CO) 008, which refers to combiner work on the King, Windy Hill and Plentywood sites, and Motorola CO 009, which breaks acceptance of the Northern Tier system into three phases as follows:

- Phase 1 – Accept sites Divide, Mt. Royal, Hill County Sheriff's Office, Antoine and Saco.
- Phase 2 – Accept sites Jette, Blacktail and Kalispell.
- Phase 3 – Accept sites Gideon, Windy Hill, Culbertson, Plentywood and Scobey.

The committee also determined funding sources for DIR 134 to reconfigure T-1 mapping from Sullivan to Helena, and voted to move this DIR forward to the IM Project Directors. Members also identified available resources to get technicians to Northern Tier sites in the event of maintenance needs or a system failure. This also will be an agenda item at an upcoming work session.

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Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee Chair, gave an overview of the current build-out schedule and Scott Bradford, PSSB, reported on the COPS grant. Last month's field audit went well. Scott is working on a consolidated change request and sole-source justification

Mark Canton, Motorola, reported that he is working closely with Roger Hays, Lewis and Clark County, on upgrading the Master Controller in Helena.

Amy Mays, DES, said the Vigilant Guard exercise is next week, so all DES resources will be directed to this effort. Larry Irwin, Montana Highway Patrol, reported on staffing changes.

Since Monday, Oct. 12, is a state and national holiday (Columbus Day), the next round of IM meetings has been shifted a day. Hence, the Oct. IM Finance Committee meeting will be Tues., Oct. 13 starting at 9:00 am at the offices of Anderson ZurMuehlen (AZ), 825 Great Northern Blvd., in Helena.

### IM Governance Meeting Educational

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Interoperability Montana Governance Committee (IMGC) met in Helena on Tues., Sept. 8. Sheriff Rusty Jardee was introduced as a new member. Members reviewed task items, followed by sub-committee reports. Cheri Kilby, Fergus County, reported on changes being considered on the IM bylaws, while Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, reported on survey work on the XL Heights site.

George Gupton, Staffing Sub-Committee Chair, indicated that the IM is still working with DES on the Compliance Monitor position, and the hiring process can begin soon for the Integration Planner position. Roger Smith, IM Radio System Administrator, will continue to schedule additional technical training workshops as needed. Dave McPherson is stepping down as Chair of the Business Practices and Fleet Mapping Sub-Committee.

New members were suggested for the training sub-committee. Scott Bradford reminded members that COPS Technical Assistance training is scheduled on Oct. 27 in conjunction with the Montana Chapter APCO meeting in Billings. Scott Bradford also reported that three training programs are budgeted under the COPS grant. In addition, he reported that signatures are being collected on the Harris-Stratex Change Order for the Northern Tier.

Ian Marquand, IM Public Affairs and Outreach Consultant, reported on all the different locations where outreach meetings have taken place and explained that a PowerPoint presentation on the IM Project is given, followed by a brainstorming session asking for ideas on how to sustain the IM Project. He indicated that the meetings have led to good comments, suggestions, questions and ideas about sustainability, regardless of the size of the audience. Ian also reported that he is presenting at upcoming MACo, DES and EMS conferences.

The next IMGC will be Tuesday, Oct. 13 starting at 1:00 pm at the offices of Anderson ZurMuehlen (AZ), 825 Great Northern Blvd., in Helena.

## Upcoming Meetings

### IM Outreach Meetings

[http://interop.mt.gov/im\\_outreach\\_meetings.mcp](http://interop.mt.gov/im_outreach_meetings.mcp)

**Sept. 14 –Lewistown • 5:30 pm**

Lewistown City Fire Dept. Training Room  
305 Watson

**Sept. 15 –Great Falls • 3:00 pm**

Cascade County Courthouse Annex, Room 111  
325 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., North

**Great Falls • 5:30 pm**

Civic Center, Gibson Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
2 Park Drive South

**Sept. 17 (Thurs.) – Please note change of date/day)**

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)

Great Falls • 10:00 am

Disaster & Emergency Services Office

521 1<sup>st</sup> St. NW

**Sept. 17**

I-15/90 Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am

Butte-Silver Bow Chamber, 1000 George St.

**Sept. 17**

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium

Bozeman • 10:00 am

Best Western City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

**Sept. 23**

Eastern Tier (ETIC)

Glendive • 10:00 am

Dawson County Courthouse Community Room

207 W. Bell

**Sept. 24**

Big Sky 11 Consortium

Billings • 8:30 am - Technical Committee

• 10:00 am - Board Meeting

Yellowstone County Fire Station, 2305 8th Ave. N.

**Sept. 28**

IM Technical Committee

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

MACo Large Conference Rm., Lower Level

2715 Skyway Drive

